



**MID-STATES
CORRIDOR**

Mid-States Corridor Project Update

Public Hearing
Tuesday, April 26, 2022

PROJECT TEAM



MID-STATES
CORRIDOR

KYANNA WHEELER

INDOT

DANIEL CORBIN

INDOT

MICHELLE ALLEN

FHWA

MARK SCHROEDER

Regional Development Authority

JASON DUPONT

Lochmueller Group

DAVID GOFFINET

Lochmueller Group

MINDY PETERSON

Project Spokesperson, C2



FORMAL COMMENTS



COMMENT PERIOD

Formal Comment Period: April 15 - May 31

- Several ways to provide comments
- Tonight's formal comment period is only one opportunity
- All comments are considered equally; regardless of comment channel
- Responses to comments are included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)



COMMENT PERIOD

Formal Comment Period: April 15 - May 31

Comment Channels

- Today's hearing; sign up to speak
- Comment form (Complete tonight or mail in)
- Computer station available to enter comments
- Project website (MidStatesCorridor.com)
- Project Office (stop by for written comments)
- Email (info@midstatescorridor.com)
- Mail (send to the Project Office)



A Source for Information and A Place to Direct Comments

Open: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET (and by appointment)

Information in project handout:

Vincennes University Jasper Campus
Administration Building, Room 216
850 College Avenue
Jasper, IN 47546
812-482-3116



PROJECT OVERVIEW

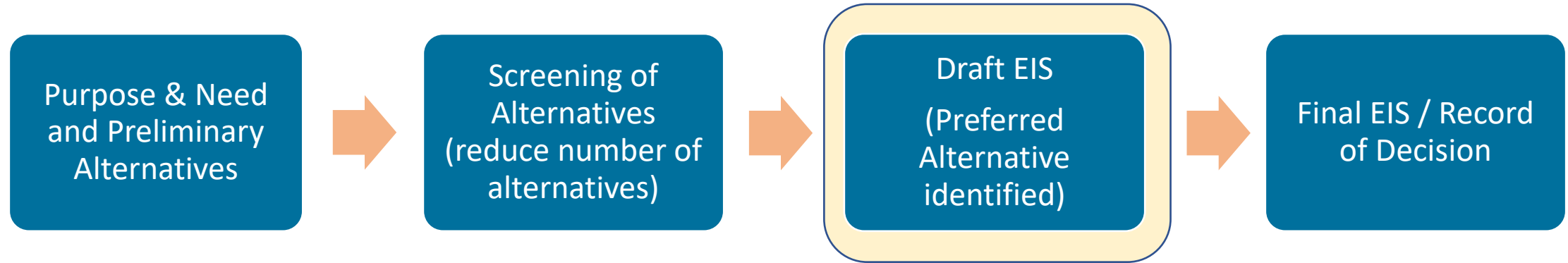


PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement
- Evaluate improved highway connection
- Evaluate multiple corridors
 - SR 66 near the Natcher Bridge to I-69
 - Northwest directly to I-69
 - North directly to I-69
 - Northeast to I-69 via SR 37
- Twelve county study area



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



We are here in the process

PUBLIC AND AGENCY ENGAGEMENT



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- Engagement throughout each step in the process
- Regional Issues Involvement Teams (*Community Advisory Committees*)
- *Ad Hoc* meetings
- Resource Agency coordination meetings
- Public information meetings and public hearings
- Project office to share information



PURPOSE AND NEED



The Purpose of the Mid-States Corridor project is to provide an improved transportation link between the US 231/SR 66 intersection and I-69 (*either directly or via SR 37*) which...

- Improves business and personal regional connectivity in Dubois County and Southern Indiana
- Improves highway connections to existing major multi-modal locations from Southern Indiana



Improve connectivity and regional access



Improve regional traffic safety



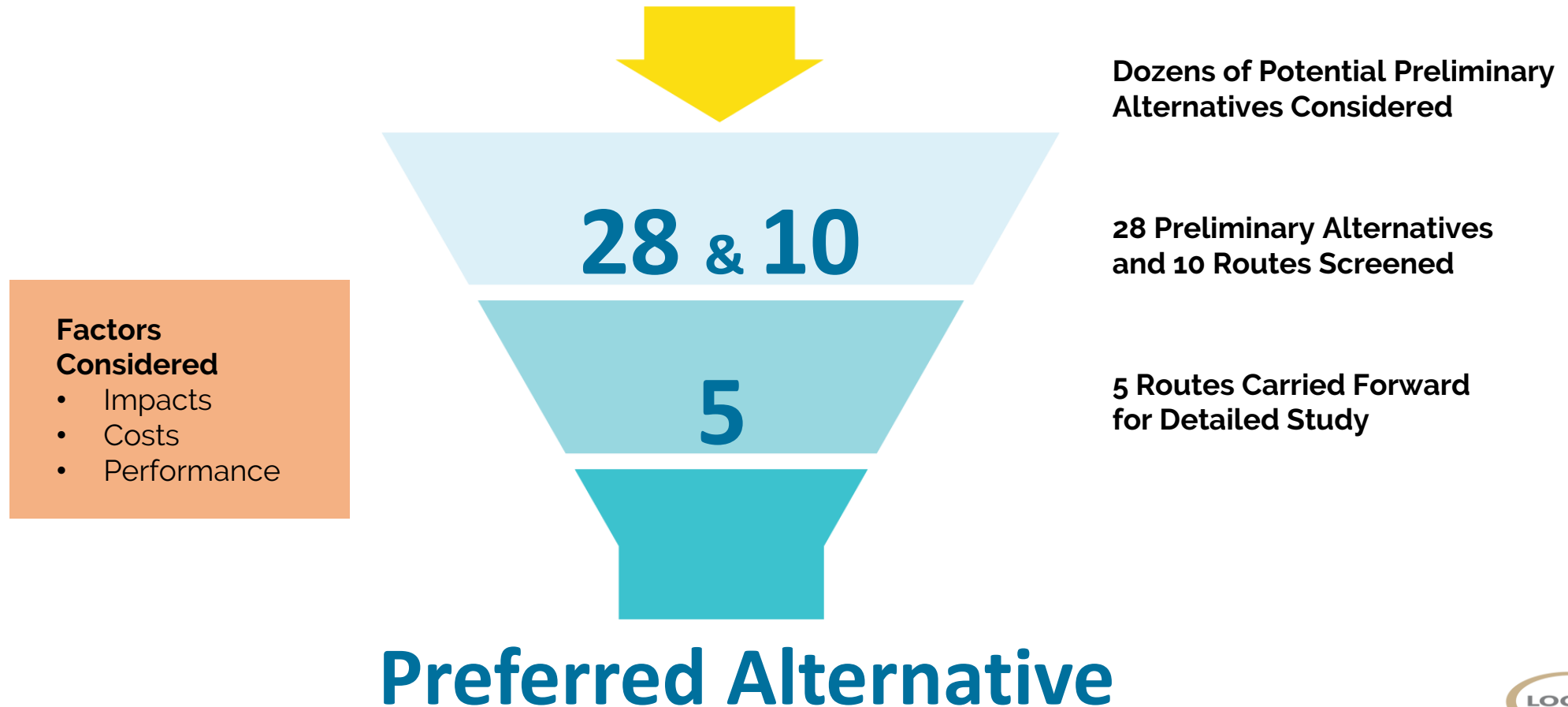
Support economic development



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SCREENING OF ALTERNATIVES

SCREENING PROCESS

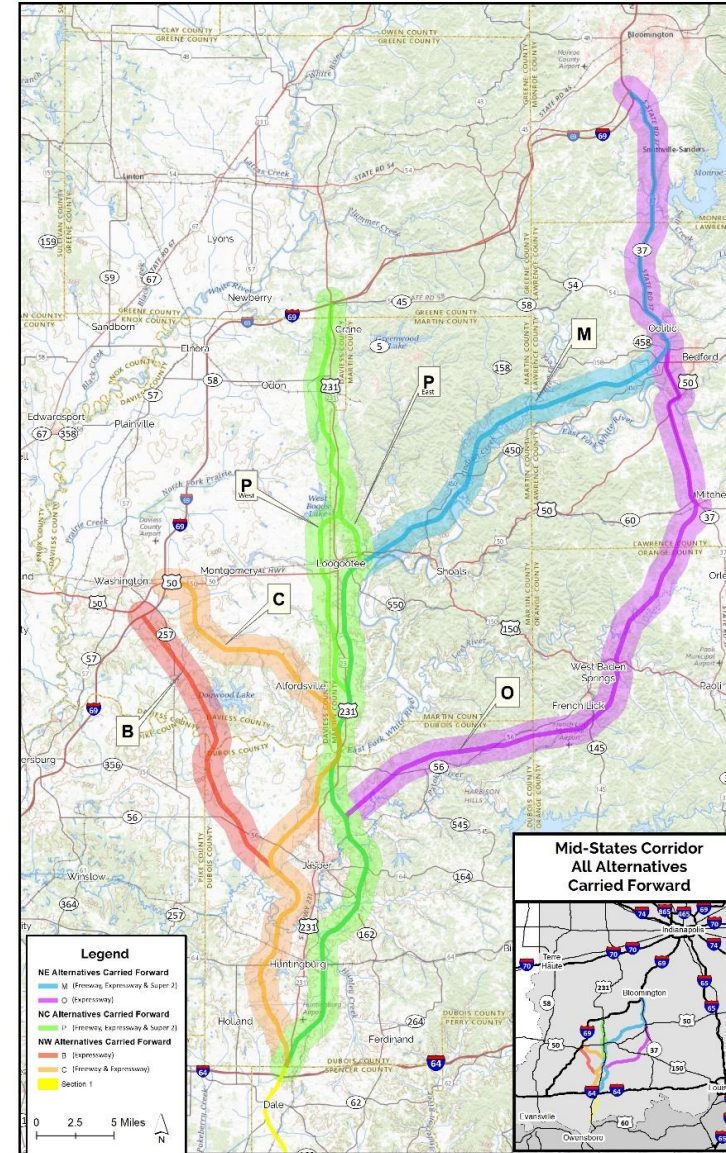


PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES CARRIED FORWARD



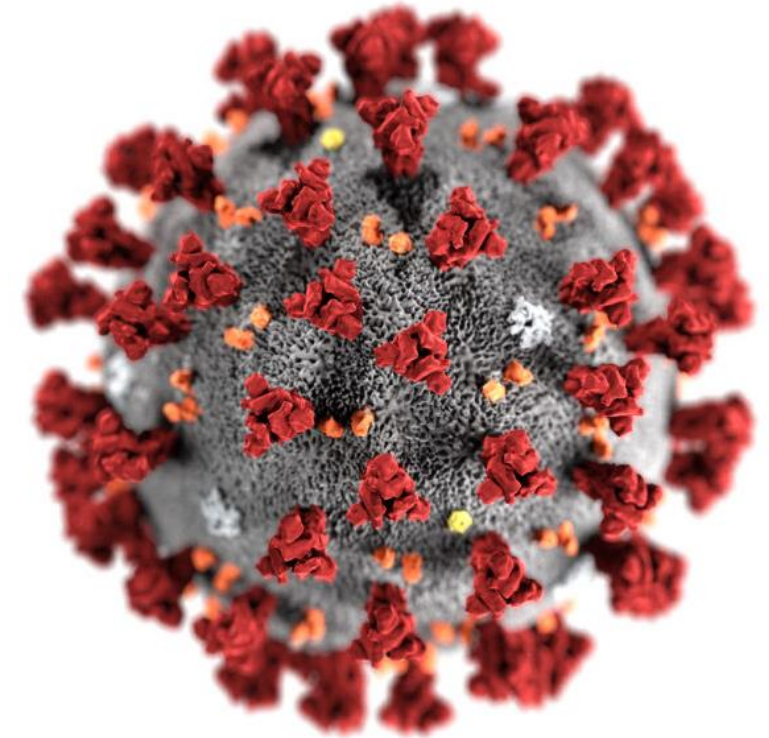
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- Alternative B
- Alternative C
- Alternative M
- Alternative O
- Alternative P



MARCH 2020: COVID-19

- Impacts to public health and well-being
- Opportunities to interact with the public were limited
- Pandemic caused uncertainty
 - Potential impacts to decision-making process
 - Possible impacts to transportation funding
- More deliberate approach to reflect challenges of the pandemic



Several adjustments made

February 2021 – Late 2021

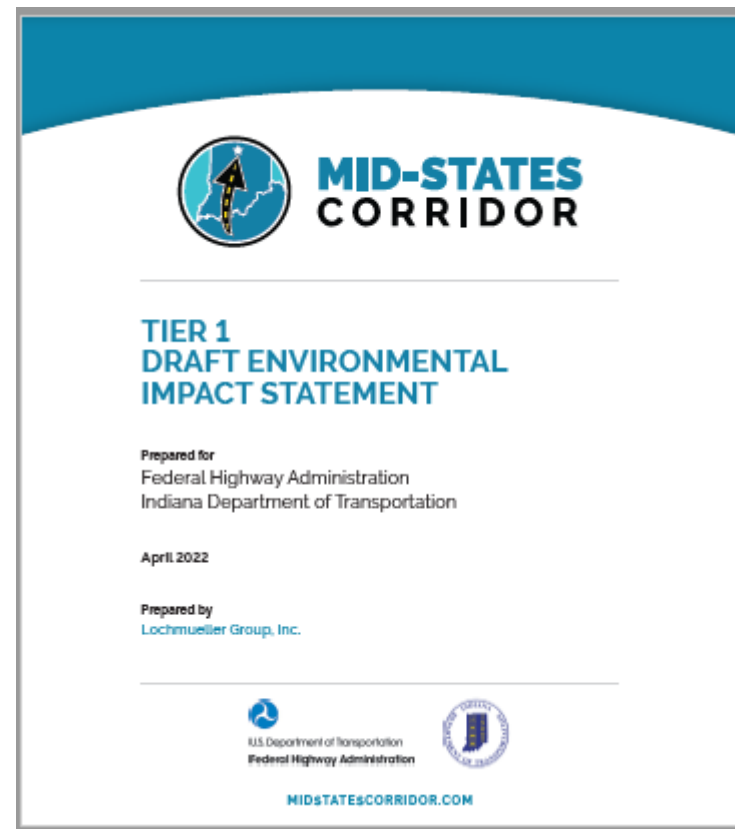
- Resumed in-person project office hours by appointment
- Resumed detailed analysis of Alts B, C, M, P & O (*Super 2 and Expressway*)
- Removed freeway alternatives from consideration
- Deferred facility-type decision to Tier 2
- Considered combinations of alignments (*east-west*) & facility types
- Considered upgrades to existing state facilities, such as U.S. 231



DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS)

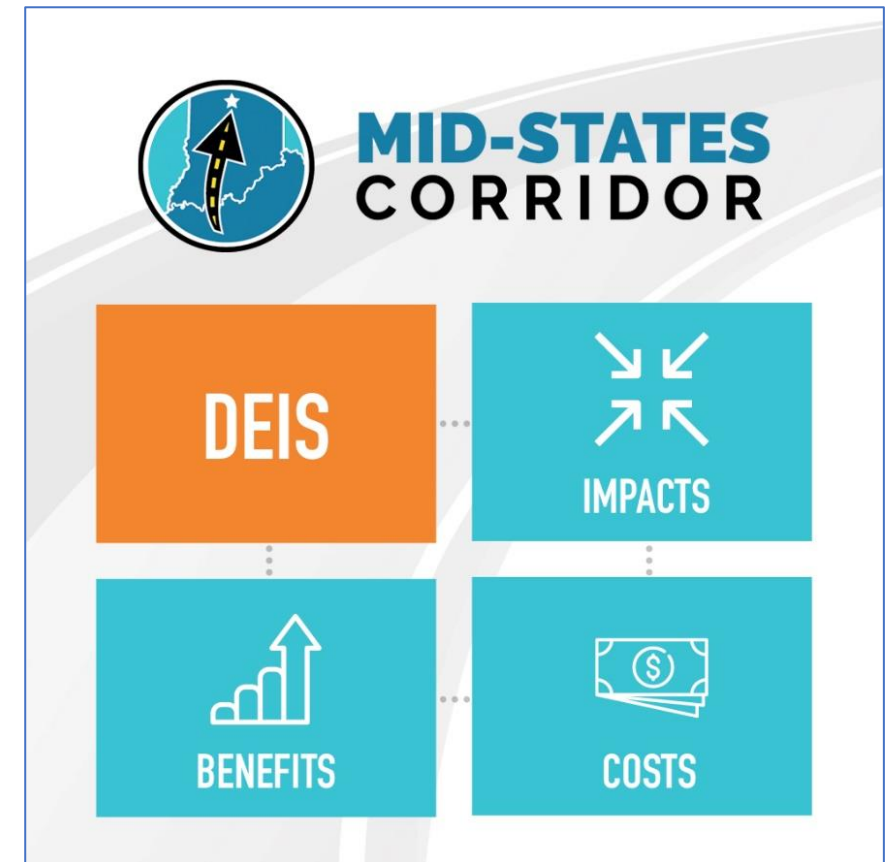


- Tier 1 DEIS published
 - Federal Register notice on April 15
- Detailed study required by National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Assesses benefits, impacts and costs
- Analysis detailed in DEIS chapters and appendices



INFORMATION IN THE DEIS

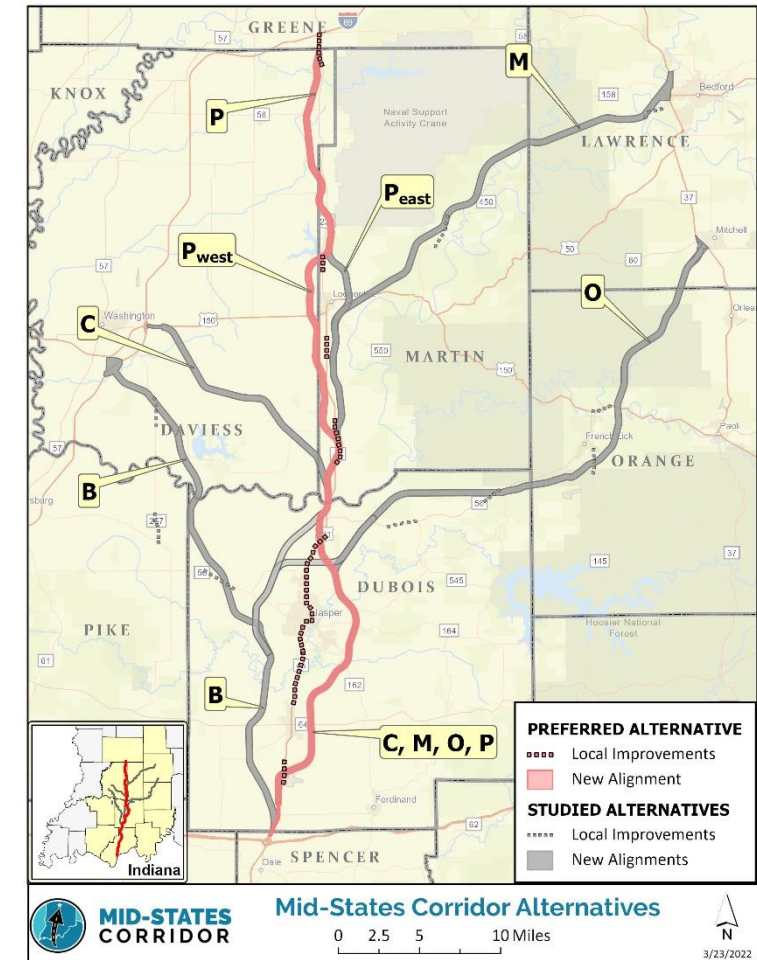
- Identifies preferred alternative
- Includes basis for selection of preferred alternative
- Includes key commitments associated with the project
- DEIS is available online and at several locations in the area



PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Alternative P is preferred corridor

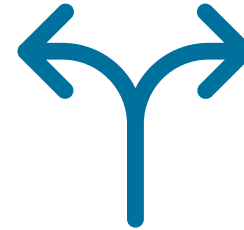
- Produces the **best combination of benefits** in relation to defined goals
- **Lowest impacts to environmental resources** among Alternatives M, O and P that meet core Purpose and Need goals
- Comparably **low level of impacts to several key resources** including wetlands (smallest impacts) and karst features (none)



CORE GOALS OF THE CORRIDOR



- Increase accessibility to major business markets
- Provide more efficient truck/freight travel in Southern Indiana
- Increase access to major intermodal centers from Southern Indiana



PERFORMANCE OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE



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- Best combination of benefits associated with the defined goals for the project
 - Most travel time saved to key destinations
 - Most annual truck hours saved
 - Most travel time saved to major multi-modal centers from Crane and Jasper
- Alternatives B and C fail to adequately address Purpose and Need core goals



PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE IMPACTS & COSTS



- **Lowest impacts** to environmental resources among Alternatives M, O and P that adequately address Purpose and Need
- Alternative P produces a comparably **low level of impacts** for several key resources
- **Lowest cost** among Alternatives M, O and P



NEXT STEPS



NEXT STEPS

- Formal comment period through May 31
- Project Team will consider all comments
- Refinements may be made to the Preferred Alternative
- Preparation of Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
- FEIS will include responses to comments
- Tier 2 studies will follow



STILL TO BE DETERMINED

- Right-of-way has not been determined
- Preferred alternative is 2,000-foot corridor
- Specific alignments approximately 200 to 500 feet won't be determined until Tier 2
- No timetable for the start of Tier 2 studies
- Each Tier 2 study is expected to take about 2 years to complete
- Timing for US 231 local improvements still to be identified



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STAY INFORMED



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@MidStatesStudy



812-482-3116



Text MidStates to
33222 for project alerts



info@midstatescorridor.com

FORMAL COMMENT SESSION

- Two-minutes for comments
- Speakers will be called to the microphone
- Substantive comments to be addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Audience: Please refrain from responding to comments – cheering, clapping or jeering





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